Hodgen
SARGENT STREET
BELCHERTOWN, MASS.

July 14, 1953

Dear Jan,

Am very sorry to hear that WCSR is having financial difficulties along the technical end. However, understanding just what the situation was last semester as far as Mr. King is concerned, I am not surprised at this latest move on his part. I only hope that his summer work at the station will not make the situation worse.

With the approval of my Chief Engineer I have been able to draw up a rough sketch of what we can offer WCSR in the way of technical services if we can convince the administration at Smith of the practicality of a change. This basically is what we would like to do and how we would go about it.

First, the WAMF engineers would become PBS engineers and take over all engineering duties at both Amherst and Smith. This would mean that our engineers would do all maintenance work at WCSR and all new installations there if you should have any in the future. In other words, the PBS engineers would completely replace Mr. A.D. King &CO., doing any and all work he has done (or hasn't done) in the past. I feel certain that Paul and his boys are quite capable of doing as good a job as, if not better than A.D. Of course, the Smith Treasurer is going to require proof of this, but I think that we can satisfy him with letters of recommendation Paul has from electronics companies he has worked for in the past. Besides this, we have concrete proof of his ability in the form of WAMF. Our plan of attack will have to be carefully worked out in the near future when we can all get together to discuss the matter. The main thing now is that if our engineers take over, they want to do so completely. This would mean also that members of your technical staff would have the opportunity to learn to make minor technical repairs themselves.

Secondly, as far as costs are concerned we would charge only for material costs and transportation; that is, you would pay for all parts at the price for which we paid for them plus about $1.00 a trip for service calls. This seems very reasonable to me, and I think you will find it much cheaper than what Mr. King has charged even though we have farther to travel. How does it sound to you?

Finally, as to promptness of service, all we can say is that an engineer would get to WCSR as soon as possible when needed. I am sure that you understand why we can make no definite commitment on the length of time in this case, but I can assure you that you would not have to wait weeks and months to have a turntable fixed. Quoting from a letter from the Chief Engineer, here are the only things that would prevent immediate service:

" 1) Being out of town
2) Class or laboratory
3) Hour test the next day (for evening calls)
4) Final exam week and probably the week before
5) Regular meals at Valentine unless it is urgent.
6) House meeting (Tuesday nights)
7) Really behind on homework."

Right now we have four qualified engineers and adequate transportation, so service should be suitably prompt.

Well, there you have it. Of course, this is as I said before just a rough sketch of the overall plan. I shall be very interested to hear what you think of it, and I will appreciate any suggestions you may have. If anything is going to be done, we shall have to start working on the Smith College Treasurer just as soon as school starts, so it might be well to make as many plans as possible this summer. I sincerely hope that something can be done, because it will be to our advantage as well as yours to have WCSR operating smoothly on the technical end.

By the way, I happened to be in 'Hamp yesterday, so I stopped at WCSR, unlocked the door, and walked in to look around. It doesn't look as though anyone has been in there since the end of school, and there are no signs of repairs being made. In general, everything looks safe and sound, though.

If by any chance you happen to get up this way before school opens again, perhaps we can get together to talk this thing over. It's too bad I didn't know that you lived in New Haven when I was there last month, or I would have stopped then.

Hope you are having an enjoyable summer.

Yours for a bigger and better PBS,

Bob Hodgen